

The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

Vol. 74, Number 5

Beltsville, Maryland

May 2026

Beltsville Garden Club Seeks New Leaders to Sustain Decades-Long Community Tradition

A local organization with roots stretching back to the 1950s is at a crossroads—and turning to the community it has long served for support.

The Beltsville Garden Club, now known as the Greenbelt-Beltsville Garden Club, was originally established by personnel from the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC). For decades, the club has brought together residents with a shared love of gardening, community beautification, and environmental stewardship. Today, however, the group faces a pressing challenge: a shrinking leadership team due to retirements.

The club's recently appointed Treasurer, Oscar Martinez, who is now stepping into the role of President, is leading an effort to keep the organization active and thriving. To do so, the club urgently needs volunteers to fill two key Executive Board positions—Vice President and Treasurer.

"These are essential roles for us to continue operating," the new President said. "Without additional leadership, the future of the club is uncertain."

Elections for these positions are scheduled to take place by July 10, with new officers beginning their duties on September 1. The Secretary position has already been filled by longtime community member Maren Mahew, former President of the Beltsville Women's Club.

Despite its current challenges, the club remains accessible and flexible for prospective volunteers. Most meetings and activities are conducted via Zoom, making it easier for those with busy schedules to participate. The club also hosts an annual plant sale fundraiser, a popular local event that supports its programming and outreach efforts.

Beyond simply filling positions, the club hopes to reconnect with and expand its presence in the Beltsville community. Suggestions have included reaching out to local BARC networks and mak-

GARDEN CLUB
continues on page 18

Inside the Rehearsal Room: Bringing *American Son* to Life

By Rick Bergmann

Before an audience ever takes their seat, before the lights come up and the first line is spoken, the real work of a play begins quietly—in a rehearsal room.

At UpStage Artists, rehearsals are now well underway for our June production of *American Son*, and what audiences will eventually see on stage is only a small part of the journey. Long before characters fully take shape, actors and directors spend hours asking questions, testing choices, and uncov-



Ed Crews leans into the moment, bringing intensity and focus to rehearsal—every word, every beat, building toward something powerful.

ering the deeper layers of the story.

One of the most important parts of that process is something called "table work." It's exactly what it sounds like: actors sitting together with the script, reading, discussing, and digging into the text. But it's also where the foundation of the entire production is built.

For this show, we took a slightly different approach. Rather than starting at the beginning, we began with

AMERICAN SON
continues on page 11

NEXT ISSUE:
Submissions Due

No Later Than:

May 20

Paper Out:

May 29

News You Can Use



Karen Coakley

By Karen M. Coakley

Election Year in Maryland 2026. "All Politics is Local," according to former Speaker of the House, Congressman Tip O'Neill. I am focusing on our local elections. I sent two questions to the candidates running for County Council District 1 and the At-Large Council seats. District 1 includes Beltsville, Calverton, and Vansville Heights. There are three candidates for District 1 and eight candidates for the two At-Large County Council seats.

1) What do you believe is the Top Concern for Beltsville, Calverton and Vansville Heights?

2) What would you do to improve the situation?

Below are the responses that I have received in time for the May Beltsville News. The remainder will be in the June Beltsville News and Beltsville Matters. Just an FYI, all of the candidates who have responded were

NEWS YOU CAN USE
continues on page 12



The Lion's Club mobile health unit visiting Emmanuel United Methodist Church in Beltsville

Lions Clubs Gather to Hone Screening Skills

By Ted Ladd

Lions Club members from around Lions Clubs International District 22-C gathered at Emmanuel United Methodist Church in Beltsville on Saturday, 18 April, to hone their skills in using equipment to screen vision, hearing, and eye pressure abnormalities. The effort was organized by Mike Bigler, Past District Governor of District -22, and currently President of the Lions Communi-



Members of the Lion's Club hone their skills on equipment to screen vision, hearing, and eye pressure abnormalities

ty Outreach Foundation. Vision screening training was conducted in the hospitality room of the church; while hearing and eye pressure training took place in the District's Mobile Health Unit that was parked nearby.

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Beltsville News: Blast from the Past

By Ted Ladd

(From the Beltsville News issue of May 2001)

BARC Named "Horticultural Landmark"

By Jim Butcher

At a February (2001) ceremony at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) that attracted over 100 people, the American Society of Horticultural Science (ASHS) named the Beltsville Agri-

cultural Research Center-West the newest of the Society's Horticultural Landmarks. In presenting the award, ASHS President, Paul L. Smeal, noted that ASHS began the Horticultural Landmark program in 1997 to commemorate a "public or private site with substantial regional, national or international impact." The site may have historical, scientific, environmental or aesthetic merit. Associate Director Ron Korcak accepted the award for BARC.

Beltsville Community Gathers for "No Kings" Demonstration

By Aiki Nicholas

On Saturday, March 28, approximately 300 community members gathered at the intersection of Powder Mill Road and Beltsville Drive for the second "No Kings" demonstration, hosted by Beltsville United. The event marked the group's third community gathering, following an initial demonstration and a recent vigil that brought neighbors together in reflection and solidarity.

The turnout reflected a broad cross-section of the Beltsville community. Attendees of all ages were present, including a notable group from the Riderwood



Beltsville and Calverton Residents came together for No Kings Demonstration on March 28.

Senior Living Community, underscoring the wide interest in civic engagement across generations. Nearly 15 volunteers helped organize and support the demonstration, contributing to a peaceful, coordinated, and welcoming environment.

Participants described a strong sense of unity throughout the event, with neighbors coming together not only to express shared concerns, but also to support one another during a time many describe as uncertain. The presence of families, seniors, and younger residents alike highlighted a collective desire to remain engaged and connected at the local level.

Beltsville United was formed to provide a space for neighbors to connect, share information, and support one another, while also organizing opportunities for peaceful civic engagement. Since its formation, the group has quickly grown into a platform for community members seeking to stay informed, take part in community conversations, and participate in local action.

Beltsville United looks forward to organizing future events where the community can continue to come together in solidarity to support the broader community and vulnerable neighbors who are being impacted by current federal policies. Those interested in learning more or getting involved can reach out at BeltsvilleUnited@gmail.com.

The continued turnout at events like this suggests a growing desire among residents to remain engaged, informed, and active in shaping the well-being of their community.

The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the article appearing in the April edition regarding the building of a crematorium addition to the existing Borgwardt Funeral home located on Powder Mill Road, Beltsville. The purpose of this letter is to gain more widespread dissemination to residents of Beltsville of the potential health hazards and other downsides of constructing a crematorium in a residential area.

My husband and I are longtime residents of Beltsville, and are in total agreement with everything stated in the April article opposing construction in a residential area. We are very concerned with the numerous potential adverse risks associated with the safety, health, environmental, and property values stated in the April article, should the proposed crematorium be constructed in our community. I also performed my own research which confirmed all of these claims.

As far as I am aware, no information has been provided regarding these risks to residents of the community. There was a community meeting at the Borgwardt Funeral Home to inform the Beltsville community about the crematorium project. I attended that meeting last fall, and heard presentations by the zoning attorney's office, the equipment manufacturer, and the owner of the funeral home. I also gave a short presentation of all of the con-

cerns stated in the referenced April Letter to the Editor. Of the 25 or so attendees, several of them stood to address these same concerns, with one of them asking the equipment manufacturer (attending remotely) to address the potential health risks. The response provided was something along the lines of, "I'm not a scientist, so I can't address that"; no one else was able to either. As noted above, we are unaware that any information regarding the health and environmental risks and real estate value impacts has been shared by our County representatives.

Shortly thereafter, my husband and I registered as persons of record for the Special Exception application filed seeking approval of the crematorium project. The fact that we were the only two individuals registered to share our concerns, supports my belief that our county reps never shared the potential negative impacts, only the positive information to support a longtime Beltsville business; which I hold in the highest regard both personally and professionally. Subsequently, a virtual hearing was conducted by the Zoning Hearing Examiner which allowed the funeral home to present evidence in support of its project. My husband and I were the only persons who presented in opposition to the special exception application. We expressed our many concerns with the proposed crematorium being built in a densely populated residential community.

Those concerns included environmental and health issues, ranging from the expulsion of particulate matter (such as mercury from dental fillings) to the impact the construction will have on community real estate values.

It is apparent to me that the "greater Beltsville community" to be impacted was not engaged. When the recently formed "Citizens Against The Crematorium In Residential Beltsville" goes door-to-door to discuss this proposed project with nearby residents, only a handful have even heard mention of the proposed construction, with none of the possible risks and negative aspects ever being shared with them.

As part of my research, I contacted three democratic candidates running for the soon to be vacant District 1 County Council seat. Two of them, Martin Mitchell and Darwin Romero, agree that the better location for construction of a crematorium is in an industrial area (like the existing crematorium on Tucker Street, Beltsville), rather than right in the middle of our living space. The third candidate I reached out to – Michelle Garcia, who did not respond -- is currently the Chief of Staff for Councilman Dernoga. Since Mr. Dernoga's office was a part of the approval process for this project, I can only assume that Ms. Garcia holds the same position in favor of

LETTER TO THE EDITOR
continues on page 4

Dear Editor,

A report on today's activity at the Beltsville Young At Heart Club-3rd Thursday of each month. This is a news report by a member. We had a wonderful concert by Johnny Seaton, our local Elvis impersonator. Almost two hours of Elvis singing and sharing history with two dozen seniors at the Community Center on Sellman Road. A free concert and it was

a wonderful time. And as always, coffee, food, and friendship. A few trips are in the future, day trips and extended tours also.

It is a wonderful way for this old man to fill his day. I heartily recommend membership. We meet once a month.

Thank you,
Edward Jackson

Letter To The Editor from Mary Lehman and Tom Dernoga

No, we have not endorsed Martin Mitchell for County Council! But Martin Mitchell wants you to think so. He also wants you to think that he has been endorsed by a host of other officials but he has not been.

We did say something positive about him when he ran for Laurel City Council in 2021. However, he lost a lot of support running for Mayor in 2023, when the Laurel Independent (September 2023) reported about his past sexual assault charges (to which he pleaded guilty to a lesser charge) and his 2013 guilty plea for driving under the influence.

He believes he can use those five-year-old statements in this election to bolster his campaign by association. Last April, we became aware that he placed our old state-

ments on campaign handouts and on his website strongly implying our endorsement. We immediately wrote to him and requested that he cease using these statements to suggest that we were endorsing him.

Mr. Mitchell refused, stating "There is a clear distinction between a previously approved quote and an official endorsement. On the website, there is a section of endorsements and a section from things said about me over the years." Councilman Dernoga let him know that using these quotes out of context is intentionally misleading and that the voters deserve elected officials with integrity. Mr. Mitchell has had over a year to remove our names, but he has ignored our requests.

At the recent Laurel Independent forum, Mr. Mitchell spoke about learning in a political science course that we need good

honest actors in politics. Misusing our statements without context or permission is not a good example of integrity.

Not everyone cares what we think about candidates; however, as the two most recent County Council members, a lot of voters trust our opinion and ask us about candidates. Obviously, Mr. Mitchell knows this which is why he wants to associate himself with us while standing behind a flimsy distinction.

So, to be clear, we have endorsed Michelle Garcia, long-standing Chief of Staff to Tom Dernoga and to Speaker Joseline Pena-Melnyk, for County Council and not Mr. Mitchell.

Mary Lehman,
Delegate (former District 1
Council member)
Tom Dernoga,
District 1 Council member



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Kitten Season Is Here!

By Stephanie Stulich

Fourteen kittens from four litters in just six days! It seems pretty clear that Kitten Season is here once again.

Beltsville Community Cats took in our first litter of kittens of the season on April 13 – three adorable little 2-week-old fluff balls. That weekend we had done a trapping project at several industrial yards in north Beltsville, and the word came back from the spay-neuter clinic on Monday that two of the ten cats we sent there were



Some of the adorable kittens at Beltsville Community Cats.



lactating mothers. That meant their babies had been without a mama to nurse them for between 24 to 48 hours. BCC volunteers rushed back to the trapping site to look for the babies, and on arrival we were told that one of the workers had three kittens in the cab of his truck! When their mama did not return, the kittens had crawled out of their nest and were soon found by Abraham, the regular cat feeder at the work site. We quickly reunited those kittens with their mama at a nearby foster home

and sweet “Juliet” began nursing her babies – and our volunteers breathed a big sigh of relief!

We continued searching for the second litter but to no avail. After several hours, with night approaching, we had to resort to Plan B – release the mom cat and let her go find her babies and take care of them. Normally we hold a cat for the night after surgery, to give them a safe space for recovery, but in this case the risk to the mama from the earlier release was outweighed by the risk to the babies from going another night without food.

Over the next few days, we continued searching for the second litter, and on April 17, we finally found them – that morning their mom had moved them under a truck. This was not a safe loca-

tion for those young kittens, and we knew we couldn’t leave them there. So, we tried an old trapping trick: use the kittens as “bait” to try to catch the mom. We placed the three kittens in a carrier with a trap against the carrier door, hoping that mama would go into the trap to try to reach her crying babies. But this mom wasn’t having it. She had already been trapped, just two days before, and she was not interested in repeating that experience.

However, we did have another option for those kittens – to try merging them with Juliet’s litter. The two sets of kittens were similar ages. And we had learned that Juliet was actually not a feral cat at all – she lets us pet her while she is nursing her babies. It seems that Juliet is an abandoned pet,

probably dumped in or near that industrial area. It’s hard to imagine her wandering there on her own, since there is no residential neighborhood nearby. In any case, Juliet accepted the additional trio of kittens with no fuss and is now gently caring for all six kittens. Her reward for proving to be such a loving girl is that she too will eventually get adopted to a forever home, just like her kittens. No way are we putting this sweet girl back out on the street!

In the middle of finding those two sets of kittens, BCC got another call – someone’s indoor-outdoor pet cat had given birth to seven kittens. We agreed that the family could “foster” them under BCC’s umbrella, receiving advice from our kitten experts as well as appropriate medical care

such as vaccines and deworming treatment. When the kittens reach three months of age, BCC will get them spay-neutered and vaccinated and then advertise them for adoption. And we will be sure to help them get the mama cat spayed too, so that this cycle does not keep repeating itself.

The final kitten in BCC’s busy kitten was found all by himself in a garden apartment complex in Beltsville. We have heard reports of a pair of similar-aged kittens in the area, probably his siblings, so we are now trying to find those too. This little guy is about 10 weeks old, and he will be so much happier if we can reunite him with his sibs. Stay tuned!

All of these kittens will make

KITTEN SEASON
continues on page 18



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BELTS26

LETTER TO THE EDITOR
 continued from page 3

the crematorium.

This proposed project should be a major concern for all Beltsville residents. We urge you to be informed of the potential health risks we are facing as individuals, the impact to the environment, the adverse impact to our home resale values and the ability to sell them. If you would like to receive further updates or additional information, an email address has been set-up for you to submit your contact information. Someone from this group will be happy to deliver written materials to support possible risks, etc., along with a petition for you to register as being in opposition, if you desire. This project is moving forward at a rapid rate, so I suggest everyone become engaged quickly. Just like the numerous data centers being planned in most rural and residential areas, it is too late to oppose after construction.

If you want to keep updated on any future happenings on this matter, please send your contact information to: Stop-Crematorium@gmail.com.

Deborah Baggett



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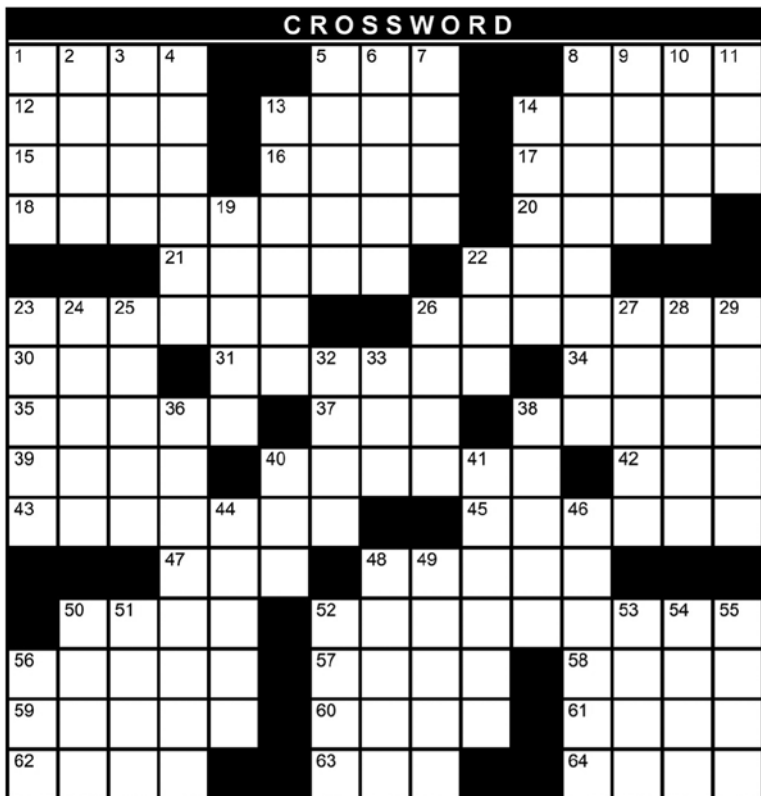
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ACROSS

- 1. Verbal abuse
5. *Failed constitutional amendment, acr.
8. Google ____, navigation aid
12. Strip of roadway
13. Dripping faucet sound
14. Chef's headgear
15. Tel ____, Israel
16. Prima donnas' problems
17. Occupied (2 words)
18. *1974 scandal
20. Flight-related announcements, acr.
21. Attempt again
22. Male aristocrat's honorific
23. Town, in Spanish
26. Recitaion of wedding vows, again
30. Santa ____ winds
31. Apnea, in U.K.
34. Operatic solo
35. ____ or do nothing
37. Finish line
38. *1976 Woody Guthrie biopic: "Bound for ____"
39. Field worker
40. Avian rest stop
42. What lintel and mantel have in common
43. Ring-shaped
45. *1979 Nobel Prize-winning

nun

- 47. *Alfa Romeo Giulietta, e.g.
48. Italian bowling
50. Type of tournament
52. *#33 Down Oscar winner
56. Lie in wait
57. Place one's stake
58. Skin woe
59. *"Roots" by Alex ____
60. House of Lords member
61. Chalupa alternative
62. Hoopla
63. "Right" coast time
64. *"The Barbara ____ Show"

DOWN

- 1. Deli side
2. * ____ lamp, 1960s invention popular in 1970s
3. Newton, e.g.
4. Echo
5. "Pomp and Circumstance" composer
6. ____ Tooty Fresh 'n Fruity
7. Cathedral part
8. *1976 Summer Olympics location
9. Caribbean color
10. Boot-wearing cat
11. *Johnny Nash's "I Can ____ Clearly Now"
13. Spinning toy (2 words)

- 14. Make a logical connection (2 words)
19. 4 x 4 race
22. Dead one or Black one, e.g.
23. Ottoman Empire bigwig
24. Teamsters, e.g.
25. Consumed
26. *"Sanford and Son" star
27. "That's all she ____"
28. Buenos follower
29. *Eric Clapton's 1970 hit
32. Not ever, contraction
33. *1975 movie " ____ Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"
36. *Kung Fu movie star (2 words)
38. Domenikos Theotokopoulos, a.k.a. El ____
40. Away's partner
41. Old master print maker
44. Scrawny
46. Feel sympathy
48. Common hops
49. Eight performers
50. No problem
51. Cheap reads
52. Back of neck
53. a.k.a. horse mackerel
54. *Jacqueline Susann's best-seller " ____ Is Not Enough"
55. Noble gas
56. "Zip it!"

See Solution on page 6

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Crossword Solution from page 5

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H	Y	P	E								E	S	T					E	D	E	N

Rosapepe's Report to Beltsville

Join us once again at the Beltsville Community Festival

I hope you will join Delegates Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Ben Barnes, Mary Lehman, and me at the family-friendly Beltsville Day Community Festival on Saturday, May 9, from noon until 4 p.m. at the Beltsville Community Center, 3900 Sellman Road.

There will be a variety of free games, numerous food options, activities, and entertainment for children and adults of all ages.

And join the Delegates and our staff at our annual post-session Beltsville community meeting.

It's your opportunity to hear directly from our team, including our new Maryland House Speaker, Joseline Peña-Melnyk, about what we've been able to do for Beltsville—and, for us, to hear your concerns. Almost every year I've represented Beltsville, I've been able to attend this annual meeting, and I always look forward to it. Beltsville residents are among our most knowledgeable and engaged constituents. Unfortunately, this year, because of an important family event, I won't be able to attend. But my colleagues will fill me in on all your perspectives. I look forward to being back next year! And, of course, feel free to contact me directly.



Update from the 2026 legislative session

The 2026 Maryland General Assembly legislative session ended in early April. The Delegates and I worked to:

- curb electric and gas rate hikes by mandating rebates to residential customers, making big tech data centers pay for their own power, shifting excessive executive salaries off of rate-payers and onto shareholders, and boosting investment in lower-cost clean energy
- boost state investment in Beltsville schools and public safety
- strengthen protections to block development of BARC and the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge
- protect Marylanders' access to life-saving vaccines
- make sure the State Attorney

General has the staff and funding to sue the Trump Administration whenever it illegally threatens federal agencies, employees, contractors, as well as earned Social Security, Medicare, and veterans' benefits

- protect American citizens and law-abiding immigrants from attacks by masked, armed ICE agents

Maryland Service Year applications are open

Launch your career and serve your community as a member of the Maryland Corps/Service Year Option Program! As a member, you'll join a statewide network of people committed to gaining work experience, building their skills, and pursuing personal growth. You'll earn a living wage, receive professional development, and contribute to projects that strengthen Maryland's schools, nonprofits, public agencies, and local communities. You'll grow, give back, and take bold steps toward your goals—all right here in the state of Maryland. Apply at serve.maryland.gov.

Contact me

Please let me know if there are other issues you have questions or thoughts about. And, of course, feel free to be in touch if I can be of help to you. Just email me at jjrosapepe@yahoo.com or call 202-580-9435.

Community Voices Invited to Join UMD Summer Chorus This July

If you've ever thought about singing with a full orchestra—or simply miss the joy of being part of a choir—this summer offers a unique opportunity right in our region.

The University of Maryland's annual Summer Chorus returns this July, welcoming singers from high school age and up to take part in an immersive choral experience. No audition is required, making the program accessible to a wide range of participants—from current and prospective School of Music students to alumni and community members who simply love to sing.

Over the course of three weeks, participants rehearse and prepare a major concert program, culminating in a live performance with professional orchestra and soloists. The ensemble is led by talented graduate students from the university's choral conducting program, offering singers the chance to work under emerging leaders in the field while tackling ambitious repertoire.

This year's program features a compelling mix of works, including Chichester Psalms by Leonard Bernstein, His Light Still Shines by Moses Hogan, and The Promise of Living by Aaron Copland. The program will be directed by Eric Beomjin Kim and Julie Huang Tucker.

Rehearsals will take place at The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, primarily in Room 2201, with final rehearsals and the performance held in the center's DeKelboun Concert Hall.

The 2026 schedule is as follows:

- **Week 1:** July 7–9 (Tuesday–Thursday)
 - **Week 2:** July 13–16 (Monday–Thursday)
 - **Week 3:** July 20–22 (Monday–Wednesday, held in DeKelboun Concert Hall)
 - **Dress Rehearsal:** July 24, 7–10 p.m. (DeKelboun Concert Hall)
 - **Performance:** July 25 at 8 p.m.
- All standard rehearsals run

from 7 to 9:30 p.m.

Past Summer Chorus performances have included major works such as Mozart's *Requiem*, Haydn's *Harmoniemesse*, Duruflé's *Requiem*, and Orff's *Carmina Burana*—a testament to both the program's ambition and its welcoming, community-centered approach.

For those looking to stay musically active, meet fellow singers, or experience the thrill of performing large-scale choral music, the UMD Summer Chorus offers a rare blend of accessibility and artistic excellence.

Whether you're a seasoned vocalist or someone who just enjoys singing, this is an opportunity to step into a full-scale concert experience—and add your voice to something truly powerful. For all the information go to <https://music.umd.edu/community-engagement/summer-programs-camps/umd-summer-chorus>

From the Office of Council Member Tom Dernoga

State Legislation to Eliminate Single-Family Residential Zoning Dies in Committee

In the February 2026 edition of the Beltsville News, I urged concerned residents to write to their State Senator and Delegates about Senate Bill (SB) 36 and its House Bill counterpart (HB 239), proposed by the Governor and many members of the General Assembly. This bill aimed to eliminate single-family residential zoning and allow townhouses and up to eight houses per acre in any residential zone. Many people objected that this effort would have incentivized overdevelopment of lower-density suburban land, running directly counter to the Smart Growth principles of concentrating development near mass transit. House Speaker Josefine Peña-Melnyk tasked me to negotiate with the Governor's team to address Prince George's County concerns, and likewise, Prince George's County Council Chair Krystal Oriadha tasked me to ensure that if the bill passed, it would have minimal impact on the County. These tasks consumed a lot of my time during the General Assembly legislative session that came to an end on April 13. Concerted opposition from many Counties and civic activists resulted in SB 36 not coming to fruition. However, we did work with the Governor on other bills that support providing more housing opportunities.

District 1 Community Conversation with Comptroller Brooke Lierman

Please join State Comptrol-



(From left to right) Chief of Staff Michelle Garcia, Jim Soltesz, Sejal Patel, Council Member Tom Dernoga, County Executive Aisha Braveboy, Kush Patel, and Karan Patel at the April District 1 Budget Town Hall.

ler Brooke Lierman and me for a community conversation on Thursday, May 7, from 6 PM to 8 PM (doors open at 5:30 PM) at the Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center, 7120 Contee Road, Laurel, 20707. You will hear updates from the Comptroller's office on key priorities impacting Prince George's County, the Maryland General Assembly, and insights from the Comptroller's State of the Economy Report. Register to attend and submit your questions at tinyurl.com/ComptrollerConvo2026. Explore the Comptroller's website at marylandcomptroller.gov.

District 1 Community Conversation with School Board Member Dr. Andorful

Additionally, I am hosting a community conversation with Dr. Tiffini Andorful, District 1 School Board Member, on Wednesday, May 20, at 6 PM (doors open at 5:30 PM) at the Laurel Branch Library, 507 7th Street, Laurel, 20707. This is an excellent

opportunity to meet and greet Dr. Andorful, ask questions, and discuss important topics related to our school community. Register to attend and submit your questions at tinyurl.com/MayD1Convo. Confirm your School Board District at tinyurl.com/PGElectedRepSearch.

Upcoming Primary Election

I encourage everyone to make their voice heard and vote for their state and local representatives in the upcoming Primary Election on June 23, 2026. Early voting will take place from June 11 to June 18. Polling locations will be open from 7 AM to 8 PM during both early voting and on Election Day.

You can vote in three ways: by early voting in person, by mail-in ballot, or in person on Election Day. To vote in person on Election Day, find your assigned polling place at voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/PollingPlaceSearch.

The following mail-in ballot drop boxes are in and near District

- 1: 1) Beltsville Community Center - 3900 Sellman Road, Beltsville 20705, 2) College Park Community Center - 5051 Pierce Avenue, College Park 20740, 3) Deerfield Run Community Center - 13000 Laurel Bowie Road, Laurel 20708,

- 4) Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center - 7120 Contee Road, Laurel 20707, 5) Riderwood Wellness Center - 3138 Gracefield Road, Silver Spring 20904.

If you need to register to vote, confirm your registration, request a mail-in ballot, update any information, or see what candidates will be on the ballot, visit the Maryland State Board of Elections (SBE) website at elections.maryland.gov. You can also register to vote at your polling place on election day. Mail-in ballots must be postmarked or placed in a designated ballot drop box by 8 PM on June 23 to be counted.

Contact Us

Please keep in touch by emailing us at councildistrict1@co.pg.md.us or call 301-952-3887.

Traditional Funerals



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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Sudoku Solution on page 8

Annexation Updates

By Jillian Schweitzer

Facts:

- Greenbelt and College Park are attempting to annex certain parts of BARC and in the latter case, parts of Beltsville including parts of Sellman Road (over by the library). College Park council members also stated at their April 21st meeting that they would like to go even further north into Beltsville.
- There is a bill in the Maryland House (House Bill 1267, Patuxent Research Refuge and Beltsville Agricultural Research Center - Zoning Classification (Protecting Patuxent Research Refuge Act) and the short and sweet is that there will need to be a local zoning person/agency to watch over and maintain all parcels of land that fall under the designation laid out (ie Land XYZ is zoned as ABC, but all land zoned for ABC will need to be overseen by the person/agency). Said designa-



tions would also have certain restrictions as well. Meaning BARC couldn't be easily split up amongst other cities as it would fall under certain designations that the annexation rules wouldn't cover. And as of this writing, the bill has passed the Maryland State Assembly and is headed for signature with Governor Moore!

- There is also HB 1178, which

also passed, which prohibits one legislative district from annexing part of another legislative district.

- We are expecting updated maps from Greenbelt's County Council that would ensure that their annexations wouldn't go past Beaver Dam Creek, but they

ANNEXATION
continues on page 9

BELTSVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



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Karen M. Coakley

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- 4503 Romlon # 102 \$205,000
 - 11324 Cleabrooke CT. \$389,990
 - 7202 Silver Thorne Way \$460,000
 - 3402 Fullerton St. \$475,000
 - 4506 Elmwood Rd. \$500,000
 - 3909 Stoconga Dr. \$580,000
- (Information provided by Bright Mls)

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Sudoku Solution from page 7

4	8	9	5	2	1	3	6	7
3	6	2	8	9	7	4	1	5
7	5	1	6	3	4	8	2	9
1	9	4	7	5	3	6	8	2
5	2	8	1	6	9	7	4	3
6	7	3	4	8	2	5	9	1
8	1	5	2	7	6	9	3	4
9	4	7	3	1	8	2	5	6
2	3	6	9	4	5	1	7	8

Obituaries



John H. Follin

Follin, John H.

John H. Follin, a longtime resident of Beltsville, MD., passed away at the age of 77, on April 1, 2026. John was born in Washington, DC, January 5, 1949, to Herman ("Hoppy") Follin and Barbara (Bobbi) Follin.

John had a heart for children and animals which always brought a smile to his face. An avid Redskins fan, he looked forward to every game.

John was a 1970 graduate of High Point High School. He was employed with Gichner Iron Works in Beltsville for many years, then went on to work for Maryland Park and Planning. He

was also a proud honorary member of Beltsville Fire Dept. for many years.

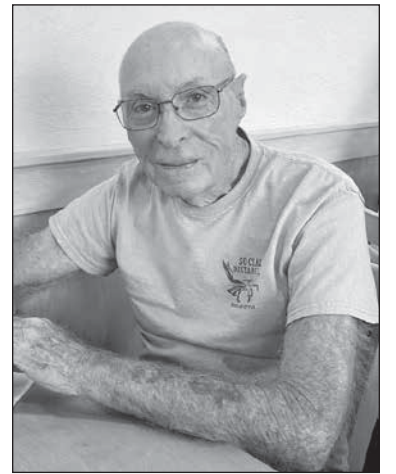
John is survived by his four siblings, Lori (Craig), Russell (Liz), Andy (Carole), and Kimberly, as well as seven nieces and nephews.

Whitman, John Evan "Jack"

At the age of 92, John Evan "Jack" Whitman Sr. passed away peacefully on April 17, 2026. Born on May 10, 1933, in Laurel, Maryland, Jack grew up surrounded by family. It was there that he met his first wife, Dorothy (Hense), and together they had two children, John and Danny.

Jack proudly served in the United States Navy. After his military service, he devoted decades of hard work as a building engineer with Riverhouse in Virginia. He lived in Edgewater, Maryland, for 15 years, where he enjoyed spending his weekends crabbing, fishing, and boating. Later in life, Jack remarried and shared many happy years with his second wife, Norma (Tuman), building a life filled with love and lasting memories.

In retirement, Jack moved to Florida, where he enjoyed his later years. He is survived by his son, John Jr. and his wife, Debra; his grandchildren, Brad (Angie), Ash-



John Evan "Jack" Whitman Sr.

ley (Kyle), Tyler and Haley (Lewis); his great-grandchildren, Brad "Evan" Jr., Savannah, Kaden, and a fourth great-grandchild on the way.

He was preceded in death by his son, Danny Jay Whitman, and by his wives, Dorothy and Norma.

Jack's life was marked by devotion to his family, service to his country, and appreciation for life's simple pleasures. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the First Lutheran Church of Bowie Cemetery Fund 12710 Duckettown Road, Laurel, MD 20708.

Neighbors in the News

From Clinical Care to Regal Radiance

The Rise of the Royal CEO Betty Charles is a distinguished healthcare professional with over 20 years of experience as a Licensed Nurse Practitioner (LPN) and the visionary founder of MiSTiK Royal, a luxury skincare line designed to restore confidence and radiance for the modern professional.

With a career rooted in the science of care as an LPN in Maryland, Betty has spent years mastering the delicate balance of skin health under pressure.

Known affectionately in her Haitian community as Sister Betty, her journey into the "Royal CEO" status is driven by a divine mandate to elevate others. After witnessing the toll that high-stress environments took on



The Rise of the Royal CEO Betty Charles

her peers' well-being, she spent years researching and architect-

ing a brand that combines clinical precision with the indulgence of royalty.

On April 18, 2026, Betty marks a historic milestone with the launch of MiSTiK Royal. This transition, guided by the strategic infrastructure of Tens Consulting, represents more than a business venture; it is the physical realization of a dream to provide "The Royal Treatment" for those who give their all to others.

A pillar of her local faith community and a mentor to aspiring entrepreneurs, Betty Charles is not just launching a product—she is leading a movement of professional "resurrection" and luxury self-care.

MY MUM

Who has ears to hear my cry
When in my infant bed I lie?

Who is eager for the day
I, by myself, can stand to play?

Who is always in God's ear
In prayer for me throughout each year?

Who rejoices constantly
O'er e'en my smallest victory?

Who makes plans to aid my dreams
Though they impossible may seem?

Who weeps with my broken heart
And tries to mend its' shattered parts?

Who laughs for the fun of it
Enjoying my attempts at wit?

Who does more behind the scenes
Than I know to encourage me?

Heav'n sent love for me to come
Within a package called "My Mum".

Beckie Hutchings
4/09/2026

Treasure Hunters Wanted! Emmanuel UMC's Community Yard Sale Returns June 13

By Rick Bergmann

Get ready to hunt for hidden gems, score great deals, and connect with your neighbors! Emmanuel United Methodist Church (11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705) is hosting a lively Community Yard Sale on Saturday, June 13, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.—and everyone is invited to join the fun.

Whether you're searching for a bargain, clearing out some space at home, or just looking for a great way to spend a Saturday, this event has something for you. Hosted by the United Women in Faith, the yard sale will feature a variety of vendors offering everything from household items to unique finds.

Want to be part of the action? Reserve your own space and turn your clutter into cash! Spots are

available for \$10 (bring your own table) or \$20 (table included). To sign up, simply go to <https://tinyurl.com/eumcyardsale2026> and fill out the form or email office@eumcbeltsville.com, and a registration form will be sent your way.

Don't miss this chance to shop, sell, and enjoy a fun-filled day with the community!

ANNEXATION

continued from page 7

have not been provided yet.

- BARC is federal land that cannot be bought, sold, or developed without an act of Congress.

Why This Matters:

- Beltsville could lose a significant amount of land.
- We were not consulted, nor considered, for this conversation by our sister cities.
- It would shift taxes and land usage.
- It would diminish the power Beltsville has, especially as an unincorporated city.

And yet:

We Beltsvillians are faced with the issue that while our sister cities have the good intentions of wanting to protect important land against an administration that has cared little for laws or procedures, it still would negatively impact Beltsville—and we haven't had a seat at the table.

Actions:

- Make your voice heard! Contact our Maryland reps:
 - Senator Jim Rosapepe: jim.rosapepe@senate.state.md.us
 - Speaker & Representative Joseline Peña-Melnyk: joseline.pena.melnyk@house.state.md.us

[state.md.us](https://www.house.state.md.us)

- Representative Mary A. Lehman: mary.lehman@house.state.md.us
- Representative Ben Barnes: ben.barnes@house.state.md.us
- Write to the College Park and Greenbelt Mayors, discussing your opposition to the annexations.
- There is also a group, Beltsville United, that is working to connect and do outreach in our community. This could be another way to tackle the issues, including possible incorporation. To join, please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/beltsvilleunited>

Treasure Hunters WANTED!
COMMUNITY YARD SALE
 Shop • Sell • Connect • Have Fun!

SATURDAY JUNE 13 2026

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

EMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 11416 Cedar Lane
 Beltsville, MD 20705

Join the United Women in Faith for a fun-filled day of bargains, treasures, and community spirit! From household items to unique finds, you never know what you'll discover!

WANT TO SELL?
 Reserve your space today!
 ★ \$10 Space without a table
 ★ \$20 Space with a table
 Spaces are limited—reserve early!

Bake Sale • Hot Lunch Will Be Sold!
 Treats, eats, and good company for everyone!

TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT, EMAIL:
office@eumcbeltsville.com
 A registration form will be sent to you.

EMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 Faith • Community • Service



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 The Beltsville News



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By Authority of Friends of Darwin Romero | Victoria Santos, Treasurer

Updates (or lack thereof) on Station 31's Firehouse

By Jillian Schweitzer

It's hard to believe that it is now over two years since the first community meeting packed Station 31's meeting room, listening to former Fire Chief Tiffany Green and assorted county staff describe how the station needed to be re-organized with career staff moving off site due to health concerns. (See original write up that was featured in the newspaper: <https://www.beltsvillenewstoday.com/post/pg-fire-chief-tiffany-green-removing-paid-staff-from-beltsville-vfd>)

Since then, it has been a shameful rollercoaster with memorandum of understandings with absurd clauses being foisted upon the volunteer staff to emails, calls and requests for clarity completely ignored. With County Executive Braveboy's team coming on last summer, we do have a new fire chief and staff working on this issue, but as of this writing, it

unfortunately seems to be more of the same. As noted in earlier articles, I attended two meetings; once with the whole board in Landover Hills in October 2025, where the main issue to come out of the discussion was the lack of files and documentation on the new temporary fire station (currently open and installed in the park next to the library). Then I attended a walk-through of Station 31 with Captain Julian Barnes and Deputy Fire Chief Gill in November 2025, where they stressed that they'd be meeting with the current fire chief Thelmetria Michaelides in the coming weeks with updates to follow. I have since followed up monthly with Captain Barnes since that meeting, but as of this writing, I have no updates from his office.

I also touched base with the volunteer folks, and they expressed their continued frustration over this entire process. They

are awaiting an updated walk-through and meeting through Station 31, but as of this writing, they do not have a date for this gathering. They were also told "that no promises could be made as far as making any repairs or remodeling as the county simply does not have any money." Budgets are always in flux, and the county and state always need more money, which is why it is particularly frustrating that the temporary station was authorized at all since it was several million dollars that could have been better allocated. And while as of the April Town Hall meeting on the budget, it was stated almost \$326 million was allocated for Fire/EMS in the upcoming budget, that is likely for projects going forward.

In an effort to get more clarity and updates, I also spoke with Council Member Dernoga's office, and they had the following to say:

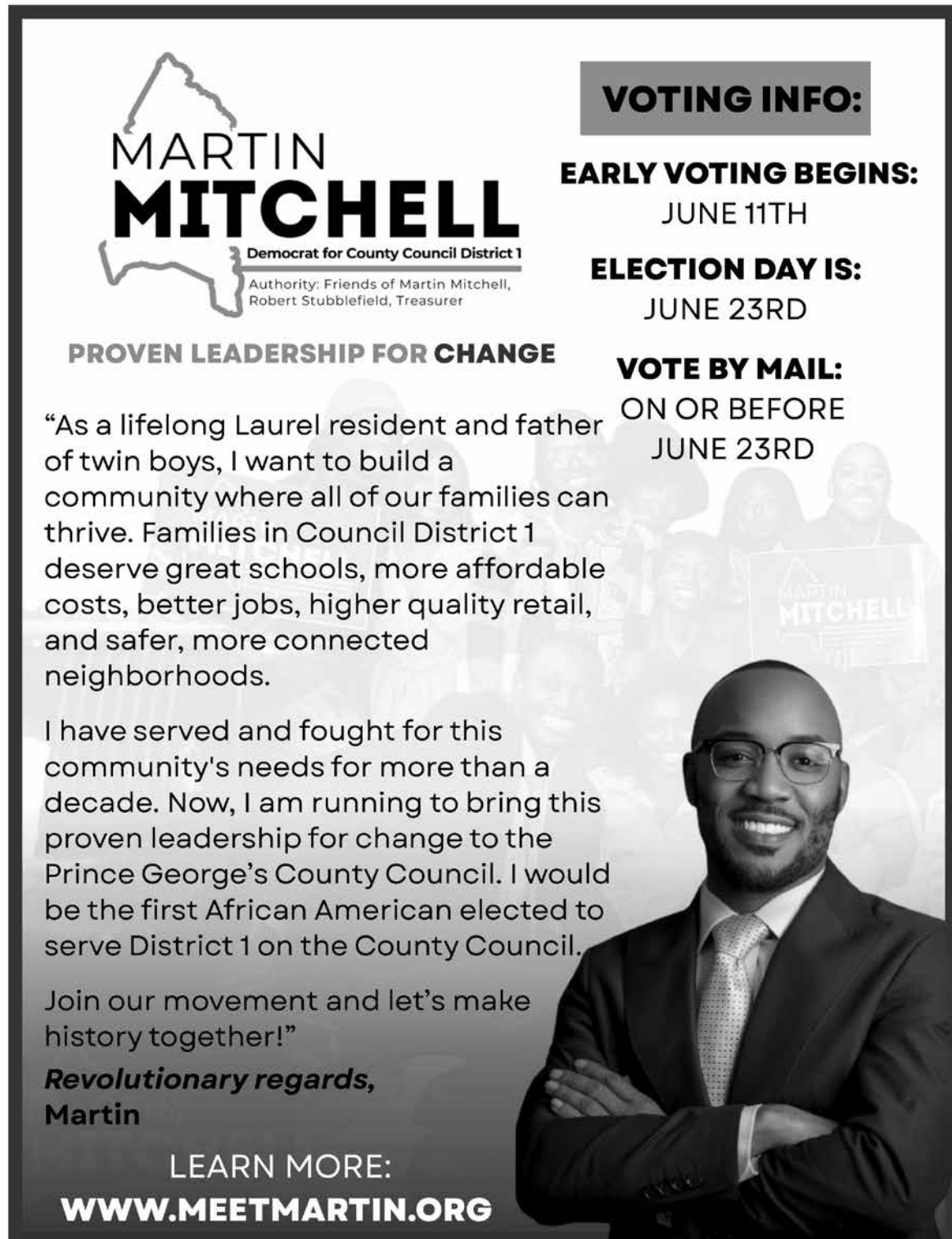
"The current problem seems to be indecision by the Braveboy administration. They did not create this mess - they inherited it. There was the unilateral decision to build the "temporary station," without informing elected officials or the community. Meanwhile, they left BVFD spinning wheels.

The Braveboy administration first had to figure out what they inherited. Then, they had to deal with the budget implications. This is complicated by the need to build a new police station at the same time and figure out what to do with the "temporary station." Because of all of the capital projects approved by the Alsobrooks administration, the County cannot take on many more capital projects right now due to limit on issuing debt. It appears that they are looking at building a combined police/fire station and there has long been a plan to do so near the ICC in Konterra. But that leaves open the questions of what happens to BVFD or the "temporary

station."

This whole situation could have been better handled, period. Volunteers have been shut out of the process, careers have been moved around, and the community has been left grasping for answers. To be clear, Council Member Dernoga and Senator Rosapepe have been working for months, trying to secure updates and meetings. But updates should not have to be chased by elected officials and members of the community. The leaders in the fire department should have clear, transparent and regular updates for both the firefighters in service and the community at large.

I will continue to push for updates, as I know the volunteers will as well. Please help by keeping pressure on this issue. Firefighters and EMS services are not fringe expenses. These people put their lives on the line in service of others, and we need to make sure they are properly informed and cared for.



MARTIN MITCHELL
Democrat for County Council District 1
Authority: Friends of Martin Mitchell, Robert Stubblefield, Treasurer

PROVEN LEADERSHIP FOR CHANGE

"As a lifelong Laurel resident and father of twin boys, I want to build a community where all of our families can thrive. Families in Council District 1 deserve great schools, more affordable costs, better jobs, higher quality retail, and safer, more connected neighborhoods.

I have served and fought for this community's needs for more than a decade. Now, I am running to bring this proven leadership for change to the Prince George's County Council. I would be the first African American elected to serve District 1 on the County Council.

Join our movement and let's make history together!"

**Revolutionary regards,
Martin**

LEARN MORE:
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VOTING INFO:
EARLY VOTING BEGINS:
JUNE 11TH
ELECTION DAY IS:
JUNE 23RD
VOTE BY MAIL:
ON OR BEFORE
JUNE 23RD

M-NCPPC Receives More than \$8.5 Million in State Funding for Planning, Parks, and Recreation Projects in Prince George's County

LARGO, MD – The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) received \$8.55 million for planning, parks, and recreation projects in Prince George's County from the State of Maryland during the 2026 legislative session. Through capital grants, legislative bond initiatives (LBI), and miscellaneous grants, the state funding for Fiscal Year 2027 will provide additional resources for existing efforts in cultural arts, historic preservation, recreation, safety, and security. In addition, passed legislation will advance the County's efforts in the areas of land use planning and economic development.

"With budget challenges from the national and state stages to the local levels, we thank the Prince George's County senate and house delegations who sponsored and advocated for bills that will enhance our communities," said Darryl Barnes, Chairman of the Prince George's County Planning Board and The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. "Through advocacy day, meetings, office visits, and testimonies over the past 90 days, M-NCPPC leadership and staff are proud of our collaborative work to support legislation and funding for initiatives and projects that will benefit the residents throughout

Prince George's County for years to come."

Funding Projects for Fiscal Year 2027:

- **Suitland Cultural Arts Implementation Strategy** – \$1 million Miscellaneous Grant for the planning, design, construction, and site improvement projects geared at cultural and economic development in the Suitland Arts District. Sponsored by Senator Nicholas P. Charles and Delegates Kent Roberson, Denise Roberts, and Karen R. Toles (District 25).
- **M-NCPPC Park Police, Prince George's County Division Headquarters** – \$1.3 million Miscellaneous Grant for renovations on the park police headquarters to ensure safety and security. Sponsored by Senator Malcolm L. Augustine and Delegates Diana M. Fennell, Julian Ivey, and Deni L. Taveras (District 47).
- **Rollingcrest Chillum Community Center** – \$1.325 million Miscellaneous Grant and \$425,000 LBI for the expansion of the community center and renovations of the adjacent aquatics facility. Sponsored by

M-NCPPC
continues on page 11



Tiffany Jackson and Ned Kieloch dig into a charged moment in rehearsal, where every question lingers and every answer matters.

AMERICAN SON continued from page 1

the final moments of the play and worked our way backward. That choice allowed the cast to see where their characters ultimately end up—emotionally and psychologically—and then explore how they get there. It's a process that encourages intention in every moment, because the destination is already clear.

What has been striking in the room so far is how quickly the material invites honest conversation. *American Son* is a play that doesn't offer easy answers. It lives in tension, in uncertainty, and in the complicated realities of communication between people who care deeply about one another but don't always understand each other. As we've worked through the script, those themes have naturally led to thoughtful discussions among the cast—about perspective, experience, and the ways we listen (or don't listen) to one another.

That kind of work can't be rushed. It requires trust, patience, and a willingness to sit with discomfort. But it's also what makes theater such a powerful art form.

The goal isn't just to tell a story—it's to tell it truthfully.

As rehearsals continue, the focus will shift more toward movement, staging, and the physical life of the play. But everything audiences will eventually see—the pacing, the emotional intensity, the relationships—will grow out of these early conversations around a table.

Community theater often gets recognized for what happens on stage, but the heart of it is in these quieter moments of collaboration. It's where a group of people comes together, not just to perform, but to understand a story—and each other—a little more deeply.

When *American Son* opens this June, we hope audiences will feel that work—not just in the performances, but in the honesty behind them. Performances run June 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, and 14, with a special talkback following the June 6 matinee. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at www.upstageartists.com or at the door. We invite the Beltsville community to join us—not just for an evening of theater, but for a story that continues long after the final line is spoken.



Doug Richesson and Tiffany Jackson connect in a quiet but powerful moment—where tension simmers just beneath the surface.

Pack 1031 Busy March & April Congrats to Arrow Scouts & PWD Winners

By Regina Halper

We did it!! Our pack Derby was held on March 21st at the Beltsville Community Center! Arrow Scout Rowan M. won the P1031 Pinewood Derby with Bear Scout Nate C. coming in 2nd place and Bear Scout Rosa M. coming in third place.

On April 13th the Arrow of Light Scouts bridged over to Scouts BSA: Rowan M. and Juan M. joined Troop 1033, Susan G joined Troop T643G in Crofton and Breanna H. joined Troop 214G in Riverdale. We had a wonderful time but had to use a paper "fire" because of the dry conditions and winds prompting a no burn advisory.

On Saturday, April 25th we will lead the Anacostia Watershed Earth Day cleanup at Lit-



Pinewood Derby Winners 2026 Rosa M. 3rd Pl, Rowan M. 1st Pl and Nate C. 2nd Pl



Opening of the Arrow of Light Crossover on April 13th with Pack 1031, Troops 1033, T214G and T643G

tle Paint Branch Park. We are partnering with the Beltsville Women's Club to clean the park and for the BWC- Sellman Road and the creek.

Check out our new website: <https://pack1031.org/> There you can find information on how to join our Pack. If you are interested in Cub Scouts at P1031, contact Regina Halper at Pack1031cubscouting@gmail.com or BeAScout.org for information. We are a family scouting unit. During the school year we meet at Beltsville Academy for our den meetings and in the summer, we meet at least twice a month mostly in the parks.

M-NCPPC

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- Senator Malcolm L. Augustine and Delegates Diana M. Fennell, Julian Ivey, and Deni L. Taveras (District 47).
- Southern Area Aquatics and Recreation Complex (SAA-RC) Outdoor Facilities** – \$50,000 LBI for the planning, design, and construction of facilities for outdoor amenities at the multi-generational center. Sponsored by Senator Kevin M. Harris and Delegates Darrell Odom and Jeffrie E. Long, Jr. (District 27).
- Wilmer's Park** – \$200,000 Miscellaneous Grant and \$250,000 LBI for the documentation of the historic sites, historic loop trail and interpretative signage, picnic areas, and ball fields and the associated infrastructure at the historic property. Sponsored by Senator Kevin M. Harris and

Delegates Darrell Odom and Jeffrie E. Long, Jr. (District 27).

The Maryland General Assembly also approved funding for the acquisition, planning, design, construction, expansion, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping for the following properties:

- Gunpowder Golf Course** – \$2 million Capital Grant
- Dinosaur Park** – \$ 2 million Capital Grant sponsored by Senator James C. Rosapepe and Delegates Ben S. Barnes and Mary A. Lehman (District 21).

Legislative Priorities for Fiscal Year 2027:

M-NCPPC provided support and/or testimony for a list of bills including the following passed legislation:

- House Bill 1247** Prince George's County – Tax Increment Financing – Extraordinary Development District – Altera-

tions PG 425-26

- House Bill 1452** Economic Development - Prince George's County Suitland Development Authority – Established
- House Bill 558** Prince George's County – Alcoholic Beverages – Wine Festival Licenses PG 316-26
- Senate Bill 325/House Bill 548** Land Use – Permitting – Development Rights (Maryland Housing Certainty Act)
- House Bill 894** Land Use – Transit-Oriented Development – Alterations (Maryland Transit and Housing Opportunity Act)
- Senate Bill 197/House Bill 243** Land Use – Comprehensive and General Plans – Alternations of Elements

NEWS YOU CAN USE

continued from page 1

happy to participate and courteous! I have included email addresses if you wish to reach out to the candidates.

Candidate for County Council District 1

- **Michelle Garcia**
www.michellejgarcia.com;
contact@michellejgarcia.com

The top concerns vary across Beltsville, Calverton, and Vansville Heights, but each reflects consistent feedback I have heard in my work with residents. In **Beltsville**, concerns center on private property issues (e.g., illegal businesses, overcrowding, etc.), which are overseen by the Department of Permitting, Inspection, and Enforcement, as well as inconsistent waste collection in certain areas, which falls under the Department of the Environment. In **Calverton**, residents have consistently raised concerns about speeding along Calverton Boulevard. In **Vansville Heights**, the primary issue is the high volume of traffic on Edmonston Road, particularly during rush hour. While there are additional concerns, such as development pressures, exhibition driving, support for the Beltsville Volunteer Fire Department, and preserving the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, the issues highlighted above are the ones that have most consistently emerged in my engagement with the community.

What would you do to improve the situation? Private Property Concerns: I am currently working on a bill with Councilmember Dernoga to strengthen the rules against business use of residential property. Inconsistent Waste Collection: I am currently working with the Department of the Environment to impose fines on the contractor or to rescind the contract. I will hold all contractors accountable. Speeding: I will advocate for a speed camera on Calverton Boulevard as I did on Briggs Chaney Road. Traffic on Edmonston Road: I will work with our state delegation to resuscitate the long-standing road project extending Virginia Manor Road to Kenilworth Avenue.

Candidates for Council member At Large listed in alphabetical order

- **Sydney J. Harrison**,
Councilmember
www.Vote4SydneyHarrison.com;
vote4sydneyharrison@gmail.com

1) I believe the top concern for Beltsville, Calverton, and Vansville Heights communities is the impact of inflation (cost of consumer goods and services), on personal expenditures and government services. Raising costs and reduced personal wealth has been caused by several key factors (interest rates increase, federal government layoffs, state government budget cuts, and the middle eastern war). Raising inflation has placed additional financial pressures on working families.

2) What would you do to improve the situation? To improve the situation, I will continue my efforts towards attracting new business investments into Prince George's County, updating out-dated zoning master plans to encourage increased commercial tax growth, incentivize job creation, and creating more affordable housing opportunities.

- **Jolene Ivey At Large Councilmember**
www.joleneivey.com;
jolene@joleneivey.com

In Beltsville, Calverton, and Vansville Heights, residents share concerns about development, public safety, the environment, and the impact of actions by the federal government in the past year. Beyond that, the communities along the U.S. 1 corridor continue to experience heavy traffic, aging commercial corridors, and uneven property conditions. Locally, the fate of the local fire station remains a concern. Career staff were relocated from Station 831 in early November, and the ongoing concern is when they will return. Because of that, there remains concern about reduced fire and EMS services in the area. I will continue to work with the Fire Chief and the fire department to see that the department is transparent with the community regarding the timelines and the future of the firehouse.

Another local concern, as well as one for the entire county, is the proposed closure of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC). The USDA's reorganization plan would close BARC after more than 100 years of operation, harming American farmers and risking billions in prior investment. The center supports many hundreds of jobs and irreplaceable agricultural research partnerships. The entire Maryland Democratic Congressional delegation has pushed back against the Trump administration's plan, arguing it may even be illegal without Congressional approval. The County Council, with my support, has officially expressed

opposition to the proposed closure. Additionally, families in the Beltsville area, as throughout the county and region, are struggling with the actions of this federal administration. In addition to BARC, the decision on the FBI headquarters, and the effects of the federal government layoffs and shutdowns, the increased ICE activity has created instability and fear in our communities. I have cosponsored a package of legislation that has passed in the County Council to protect our neighbors. The way to address and work to make changes in these federal issues is for the Democrats to win the midterm elections. In the meantime, I will continue to work with the impressively active and involved residents in the Beltsville area.

- **Dr. Jennifer Rios**
www.DrJenniferrios.com;
drjenniferrios@gmail.com

1) The biggest concern I hear from residents is how growth is outpacing infrastructure. Traffic is getting worse, roads need attention, and people don't always feel safe walking in their own neighborhoods. There's also a real concern about whether new development is actually helping the people who already live here, especially when it comes to small businesses and rising costs.

2) First, I would push for practical improvements people can see, like fixing roads, making intersections safer, and improving sidewalks and crossings. I would also work with state and regional partners to improve transit options, so people aren't stuck relying only on cars. Second, I would make sure new development is planned responsibly. That means not approving projects unless the infrastructure can handle them and making sure developers contribute to things the community actually needs.

I would also focus on supporting local businesses and job opportunities so that growth benefits current residents, not just outside investors.

Most importantly, I would stay in regular contact with residents and civic groups, so decisions are based on what the community is actually experiencing, not just what looks good on paper.

- **Keith Washington**
kwash85td@gmail.com

A little bit about myself is that I spent 20 years in the US Army and 17 years as a Prince George's County Police Officer, mostly at the same time. I started and

ran a foundation for kids to be awarded scholarships while I was a police officer, so I believe in service to my community and county. I am also a small business owner in Prince George's County and employ many county citizens.

1) The top concern is a lack of results after decades of the same leadership. Beltsville, Calverton, and Vansville Heights have been underrepresented for years. Residents are still dealing with worsening traffic, unchecked overdevelopment, strained infrastructure, and limited economic opportunity. At some point, we have to be honest: these aren't new problems, they are the result of long-term inaction. Families are sitting in traffic longer, small businesses are struggling to stay open, and development decisions continue to prioritize outside interests over the people who actually live here. Residents don't feel heard—and after decades of the same leadership, they're right to ask: when does it get better?

2) First, I will bring immediate accountability. Thirty-five years is more than enough time to fix these issues. If they're still not solved, it's time for new leadership focused on results, not maintaining the status quo. I will push for a pause on overdevelopment until infrastructure—roads, schools, and public services—catches up. No more approving projects that increase congestion and strain our communities without clear, measurable benefits to residents. Second, I will fight to bring real economic investment into this corridor. That means supporting small and minority-owned businesses, ensuring local hiring, and making sure county resources are reinvested in the communities that have been overlooked for far too long. Third, I will take a smarter approach to public safety—focusing on prevention through youth programs, job training, and community partnerships so we reduce crime before it starts like I did as a police officer with a foundation for youth to pursue their life's dreams and goals. Most importantly, I will be present, accessible, and responsive. These communities deserve leadership that shows up consistently and fights for them every day—not leadership that has grown comfortable over decades.

This election is about a choice: continue with the same leadership and minimal results—or choose a new direction focused on accountability, opportunity, and putting residents first.

M-NCPPC Prince George's County Planning Department Recognizes the Neighborhood Planning Academy Spring 2026 Cohort with Graduation Ceremony

LARGO, MD – The Prince George's County Planning Department of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) hosted a graduation ceremony to celebrate the Spring 2026 Cohort of the **Neighborhood Planning Academy** on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at the Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex in Landover. Designed specifically to engage Prince George's County residents and community stakeholders, the Neighborhood Planning Academy explains the County's planning

framework, how to engage in the development review process, and how to advocate for their community goals and visions.

This spring, 58 representatives, reflecting all regions of Prince George's County, were selected to participate in a seven-week program to learn the ins and outs of the County's planning framework, how to engage in the development review process, and how to advocate for their community goals and visions. Since the launch of the program in the fall of 2023, more than 300 individuals have

participated in the Neighborhood Planning Academy.

"The Neighborhood Planning Academy is more than a program – it's a testament to the power of informed, engaged communities," said Darryl Barnes, Chairman of M-NCPPC and the Prince George's County Planning Board. "When our stakeholders understand how planning works, they gain the tools to shape their own future. I'm proud to see residents stepping forward, learning together, and helping us build a Prince George's County that reflects the

voices of the people who call it home."

"The Neighborhood Planning Academy helps demystify the planning process and gives residents a clearer understanding of how their ideas can influence real outcomes," said James Hunt, Acting Planning Director of the MNCPPC Prince George's County Planning Department. "When community members feel informed and equipped, they become powerful partners in shaping thoughtful, equitable, and forwardlooking plans for Prince George's Coun-

ty."

The Spring 2026 Cohort of the Neighborhood Planning Academy included Moira Abernathy, Cherrelle Ali Morrison, May Amoyaw, Luis Aparicio Garrigos, Sophia Awartey, Erica Brown, Marva Jo Camp, Korey Anthony Chisholm, Patricia Clark Jackson, Ralph Cyrus, Octavia Doughty, Montre Dupree, Maurice Fitzgerald, Faith Ford, Gregory Ford, Jr., Marie Frazier, Gwendolyn Gatewood, MaShawn Hall, Lauryn Hansard,

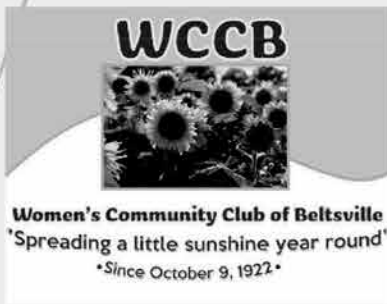
CEREMONY

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301-937-6613; BELTSVILLECC@PGPARKS.COM

BELTSVILLE DAY



SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026

12 NOON - 4PM

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FOR ALL AGES**

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CRAFTS***, VENDORS, FOOD & MORE**

****VENDORS WILL HAVE FOOD AND OTHER ITEMS FOR SALE**

*****THANK YOU TO THE WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CLUB FOR
THEIR DONATION**

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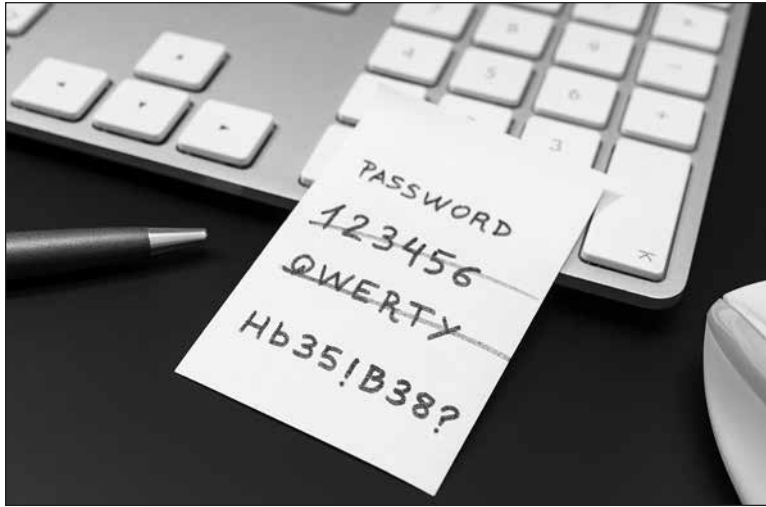
@pgparks



- The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities. Register a minimum of two weeks prior to the program start date to request and receive a disability modification.
- Customers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, call Maryland Relay 7-1-1.
- Language interpretation is available at all facility front desks. Please ask for assistance.

World Password Day 2026

We observe World Password Day on the first Thursday of May each year. This year it occurs on May 7th. Each year I use this opportunity to encourage everyone to update his or her passwords. I often repeat various methods of creating secure passwords that are also easy to remember. If you enjoyed some of the methods I have suggested previously, feel free to look at some of my previous columns. This month I will be showing another means of creating secure passwords that are easy to remember or recover.



Password best practices include changing them at least annually, make sure each password is unique application or website, making passwords long, longer than 16 characters. Also make them a mix of upper and lower case characters, digits, one or more special characters.

The Dictionary Method

This method uses a traditional dictionary book. You may use an old one, or an abbreviated dictionary, or buy a used one from a library, or thrift store. Digital dictionaries may not work well for this.

Next, get a sheet of paper with ruled lines. In the first column number the lines from 1 to 26. In the second column, place the letters A through Z. Use the next two columns for page numbers and words.

I have written this for those that use paper, but I tend to use a spreadsheet, or a text editor like notepad, or Word.

Building the Codebook

To build your password codebook, flip the dictionary pages and stop on a random page. Write the page number into 2nd column. Write page numbers with at least

three digits so, page two would be written as 002. Then select a random word from the page. A possible way of doing this is to determine the word from the page based on the page number. If you select page number 305, you might choose to use the fifth word defined on that page. Write the page number and the selected word in the next two columns.

Go to another dictionary page and repeat the process until the completion of all 24 lines. The words do not need to be in alphabetical order and is best keep in random order. I prefer words that are 5 to 9 letters.

Once completed add an additional row with the numbers 0 through 9 and below each digit put a special character. Find most of the symbols on top of the numbered digits of the computer keyboard. This might look as follows:

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
? ! @ # \$ % ^ & * :

How to use the Codebook

First, we will establish some rules (yes, just like the other methods we have used).

The first rule we need is one to select the letters from the website or system name. I will use the first two and the last two letters giving me AMAN for Amazon and FAOK for Facebook. We want to skip any duplicate letters but we always want to have at least three words. You can use any selection rule you want but make sure it gives you at least 3 words to choose.

Next rule, all words begin with a capital letter, other letters are lower case.

Next rule is to pick a symbol. Let's pick the symbol below the digit making the next to last digit of the page number of the first word.

The final rule will select our numbers. I suggest we use the largest digit of each page number, skipping duplicates and put the digit between the page number and the next one.

Following the example codebook, for Amazon you would get:

- Pick first and last two letters, AMON
- Pick the symbol \$
- Pick the numbers 6 largest for A, 5 largest with no repeats for

M, 1 to avoid a duplicate 5 on the O, finally a 4 to avoid both the 5 and the 1 on the N.

- For Amazon, this leads to; "Worse\$Junker6Unfair5Yankee" and for face book it becomes;
- Pick letters FAOK
- We pick the symbol #
- Pick the numbers, 9 is the largest for page F, 6 is largest for A, 5 is the largest for letter O, and 1 is the highest unused letter for the letter K.

If duplicate numbers are a problem, create pin numbers you can use instead of using sample rule. For example the following pins all work 1592 6535 8973 2031 4903 4681 3572 5731 6823 0491. Then add all of the page numbers together and continue to that until you have a single digit number from 0 to 9. Use that number to select one of these combinations using the digits one at a time from each of these four digit number.

Additional Notes

Why does this work? It is because the words are select randomly, as are the numbers and the pages in the dictionary unless the attacker know which dictionary you are using. You could use almost any large book, but you wouldn't have as much randomness due to having fewer words.

Instead of using a dictionary, you can use one of the word lists from the Electronic Freedom Foundation and roll dice to select the words. Do not however use the values of the dice as page numbers. They would identify the actual words breaking the security.

You can make this even more secure by using 5 instead of 4 words.

Each year when you are ready to update your passwords, you create a new codebook and start updating.

In the End...

Going back and reading my previous May columns will provide you with some other ways to create secure passwords. Have a happy World Password Day.

In the meantime, stay safe online!

I have provided a sample codebook. Please DO NOT USE THIS. Never share your codebook. I suggest keeping it in secure storage on your phone. Both Apple and Android provide secure storage on their phones. Or fold it up and keep it in your wallet or another safe location.

Sample Code Book

Page	Word
1 A	1640 Worse
2 B	174 Break
3 C	320 Corse
4 D	411 Ditto
5 E	1098 Plywood
6 F	934 Muffler
7 G	882 Medley
8 H	497 Extreme
9 I	392 Dictator
10 J	1182 Ready
11 K	1590 Vivid
12 L	839 Lowlife
13 M	665 Junker
14 N	1646 Yankee
15 O	1550 Unfair
16 P	1523 Trolley
17 Q	757 Jewel
18 R	657 Hero
19 S	973 Notice
20 T	1416 Stylist
21 U	1231 Robot
22 V	1027 Paper
23 W	025 Agency
24 X	780 Knock
25 Y	1162 Quarter
26 Z	865 Marble

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
? ! @ # \$ % ^ & * :

How to Navigate the Grocery Store Without Decision Fatigue

(StatePoint) Ever take a trip to the grocery store and feel overwhelmed by all the choices available? Save time and money by opting for products already tested by other consumers.

Product of the Year USA, the nation's largest consumer-voted awards program dedicated to recognizing product innovation, has announced the winners of the 2026 Product of the Year Awards. Winners were selected based on the opinions of 40,000 American shoppers through an independent national study conducted by Kantar, a leading global research firm.

So the next time you're at the supermarket, be on the look-out for this year's winners, which include the grocery store essen-

tials listed below. You can easily find these crowd-pleasing foods and beverages when shopping in-store and online by simply looking for Product of the Year's red seal of approval.

Breakfast: Eggo Protein Waffles and Pancakes

Eggo Protein Waffles are crispy on the outside and fluffy on the inside, while Eggo Protein Pancakes are golden, fluffy and delicious. Both come in multiple flavors and offer a wholesome, tasty way to fuel mornings with 20% of the recommended daily value of protein in every serving.

Granola: ALDI-Exclusive Simply Nature Granola Bites

Available in Strawberry

or Chocolate Chip, these bites are great for breakfast, a mid-day boost, or a convenient on-the-go treat. With low calories, non-GMO ingredients, and gluten-free certification, they provide a healthy and satisfying option to enjoy anytime.

Healthy Beverage: Clearly Canadian Originals

The original flavored sparkling water has launched a new Sunset Orange flavor bursting with fresh clementine and zesty citrus notes, with a touch of sweetness and a crisp refreshing finish. Crafted with pure Canadian spring water with naturally occurring hydrat-

GROCERY STORE
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(c) Jordi Salas / iStock via Getty Images Plus

Why You Should Get Your Mortgage with Your Credit Union

Buying a home is one of the biggest financial decisions you'll ever make—and where you choose to finance that dream matters. While many people automatically turn to big banks, credit unions often provide a smarter, more personalized path to homeownership.

At Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union, we believe your mortgage should work for your life—not the other way around. Whether you're purchasing your first home, a vacation property, or an income-producing investment, our mortgage solutions are designed to make the process easier, faster, and more affordable.

Personalized Service, Not Corporate Runaround

Unlike large national banks, credit unions are member-focused. That means we prioritize people over profits. You're not just another loan number—you're a member of our community.

Flexible Mortgage Options for Real Life

Every homebuyer's journey is



different, which is why we offer multiple mortgage types and competitive rates to fit your needs.

We finance:

- Single-family residences
- Multi-family homes (up to 4 units)
- Condominiums and townhomes
- Owner-occupied properties
- Second and vacation homes

Qualified borrowers may also be eligible for 100% financing, helping remove one of the biggest barriers to homeownership—the down payment.

First-Time Homebuyers Get Extra Support

Buying your first home can feel overwhelming—but it doesn't have to be.

We offer:

- Pre-qualification assistance
- First-time homebuyer programs
- Educational resources and homebuying webinars
- Step-by-step guidance through the home buying process

Our goal is to make sure you feel confident, informed, and prepared every step of the way.

Financial Wellness Matters

At Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union, we know a mortgage is only one part of your financial picture.

That's why we encourage members to take a full financial wellness approach—building emergency savings, improving credit, reducing high-interest debt, and increasing retirement contributions as part of a stronger financial future.

A mortgage isn't just about interest rates—it's about trust, service, education, and long-term financial success.

When you finance your home through Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union, you get more than a loan. You get a financial partner invested in helping you build wealth, stability, and a place to call home.

Homeownership should be a blessing—not a burden.

Get pre-qualified and move forward with confidence. Visit our Mortgage Center today.

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Calendar of Events

COLLEGE PARK AVIATION MUSEUM

Address: 1985 Corporal Frank Scott Dr., College Park, MD 20740. Phone: 301.864.6029. Fax: 301.927.6472. E-mail: collegeparkaviation@pgparks.com. Regular hours of operation: Open Tuesday – Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Mondays and some holidays (double-check with the museum regarding the specific holidays). Special events may have different costs and hours of operation. General admission: Adults/\$5; Seniors/\$4; Children and Students with ID/\$2 (1-year-old and under, free). The museum exhibit area highlights 10 unique aircraft and objects relating the history of early aviation at the College Park Airport. For special events see www.pgparks.com/facilities/college-park-aviation-museum.

STEAM HOUR

Two dates: Sat., May 23 and Sun., May 24 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. each day. Join our educators at this hands-on activity table where creativity takes flight! Perfect for budding engineers and aviation enthusiasts, this interactive program allows visitors to design and build their own creations. Whether you're constructing airplanes, airports, or inventing something entirely new, the STEAM Hour encourages you to dream big and bring your ideas to life. Drop in anytime during the hour for an opportunity to explore the wonders of aviation through play. This program is ideal for learners ages 6 – 12 and is FREE with museum admission. No registration required.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE VISITOR CENTER

Main phone: 301.497.5772. Website: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/patuxent-research/events>. Address: 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708. The entrance is accessed from Powder Mill Rd. between the Baltimore–Washington Pkwy. and Rt. 197. The grounds are open from sunrise to sunset daily, except Tuesdays when they close at 4 p.m. Regular business hours for the building are Wed. – Sat. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., except for Federal holidays.

- **Free admission, parking, exhibits, and programs.**
- **Miles of walking trails.**
- **Great for birdwatching and photography.**
- **All dogs must be kept on a leash** (no longer than 6 feet) for their own safety as well as that of other visitors and wildlife.
- **Weather closures:** Hours of access may be altered as needed to clear roads and grounds.

STORY TRAIL

Daily, from sunrise to sunset (except Tuesdays, only until 4 p.m.). All Ages. Explore a seasonal children's book, displayed page-by-page in weather-protected, child-height boxes outdoors along the paved Loop Trail that are near the outdoor bathrooms.

- The book for **May** is the dual-language *I Know the River Loves Me*

/ Yo sé que el río me ama by Maya Christina Gonzalez.

SCHOOLS AND YOUTH GROUPS

Invitation to enjoy educational species exhibits, the grounds and trails, bird blind, and pollinator gardens. There is a patio for picnics. Send your questions to Jason at michael_cangelosi@fws.gov.

AGENTS OF DISCOVERY

Sunrise to sunset daily, except only until 4 p.m. on Tuesdays. All ages. This is an outdoor self-guided nature-challenge game on the grounds. Download free phone app at home first. Complete challenges and earn a patch. Play: <https://fws.gov/media/agents-discovery-patuxent-research-refuge>.

KIDS DISCOVERY CENTER

10 a.m. to 12 noon (35-minute time slots, on the hour). Ages 3 – 10, with an adult. Crafts, puzzles, games, nature exploration.

- **May theme:** Ants—There are 100 species in Maryland! They visit our picnics and sometimes our kitchens, but what else do they do? Come explore!

- **June theme:** Snakes—Some climb, some swim; they eat whatever their mouths can fit in. What else can they do?

Registration is strongly recommended: Call 301.497.5772 during regular business hours. For large groups please contact michael_cangelosi@fws.gov.

MONARCH MAGIC CENTER IS OPEN!

Open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. when the Visitor Center is open. The monarch butterfly season is here! All ages. This is a fun and educational exhibit. See the various stages of this fascinating insect's life cycle in person! You can also see the monarch butterfly life cycle video. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, call 301.497.5772 when the Visitor Center is open and sign up for a Butterfly Team overview presentation.

HOLLINGSWORTH WILDLIFE ART GALLERY

Free. All ages. Open when the building is open. The art gallery is next to the bookstore.

- **May** artist: University of Maryland, College Park Associate Professor Nishanth Sunny and his daughter Isha Sunny present *Nature's Wonders—Let's Preserve Them!* This exhibit of their beautiful butterfly, bird, and wildlife photographs and pencil drawings is also a fundraiser for Friends of Patuxent (FOP); 100% of sales benefit FOP and the refuge mission.
- Three Special Nature Programs in May are scheduled for children ages 4 – 12. These programs will take place from 11 a.m. to 12 noon each day. Light refreshments and a Meet and Greet with the Hollingsworth Gallery exhibitors will follow each program.

- Sat., May 9—Wolves and Other Predators,
- Sat., May 16—Monarch Butterflies and their Magical Migration, and

Sat., May 23—Nature Walk.

WINGSPAN GAME DAY

Fri., May 8 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Ages 12+. No experience needed. Play the award-winning board game and learn more about birds! Use our game or bring yours and sign in at the Front Desk to play.

FAMILY FUN

This educational exhibit is staffed on Fri., May 29 and Sat., May 30 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. both days. It is open to individual study from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wed. – Sat. All ages.

- **May theme:** Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. On average we throw away almost 5 pounds of trash each day! Explore alternatives with us. This is a drop-in program; come and go as you wish.

WILD BIRD MEET & GREET

Sat., May 30 from 2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Join us in the Visitor Center lobby for a drop-in Meet & Greet with a live bird of prey. Bring your camera and your questions. All ages.

LAUREL–BELTSVILLE SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

Masks are optional. Contact the center for updates. Membership is free for Beltsville residents who are 60 years old or older. Regular hours of operation are Mon. – Thur. from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fri. from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sat. from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Closed on Sundays and most major holidays. Address: 7120 Contee Rd., Laurel, MD 20707, next to the University of Maryland Laurel Medical Center. Phone: 301.206.3350. Fax: 301.206.3387. Maryland Relay 7-1-1 for customers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability.

LAUREL SENIOR FRIENDSHIP CLUB (LSFC)

The May meeting will be Wed., May 6 at 10:30 a.m. The club meets on the first Wednesday of each month. For more information about the meeting, contact Ms. Pary Harris at 240.893.6738.

- The LSFC office is open Mon. – Fri. from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Call 301.206.3380.

- Please make lunch reservations two weeks in advance of each meeting. Call the office for details.

- Trips planned for 2026: *Be sure to register early since many trips sell out in advance!*

- Every Tuesday Bingo starts at 12 noon (doors open at 11 a.m.); fee for cards, NO admission fee. If any doubt about Bingo being held, call 240.788.2290.

NARFE MEETING

Chapter 422 Laurel of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) will **not** meet on May 6 because the officers and some members will attend the Maryland Federation of NARFE Mini-Conference in Bowie that day. Watch for the announcement of the June 10 lun-

cheon meeting with our Maryland Senators and Delegates on the results of the recent session in Annapolis. For more information contact Pat Farmer at 240.762.3895.

ROSIE THE RIVETER ASSOC. BOOTH

Sat., May 2. Stop by the Laurel Chapter of the American Rosie the Riveter Association (ARRA) booth at the **Laurel Main Street Festival** on Sat., May 2, near the First United Methodist Church at 424 Main St., Laurel, MD 20707. Learn more about the Laurel Chapter of ARRA and the legacy of the Rosies who worked on the homefront during WWII. For more information contact Pat Farmer at 240.762.3895.

BELTSVILLE EVENTS

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY (NAL)

Address: 10301 Baltimore Ave. in Beltsville. Main phone number: 301.504.5755. We continue to serve our customers remotely during regular business hours. Website: <https://www.nal.usda.gov/>; online information products are always available. NAL is on X at https://x.com/National_Ag_Lib. The National Agricultural Library (NAL) is one of five national libraries of the United States. It houses one of the world's largest collections devoted to agriculture and its related sciences. See nutrition information for every stage of life at <https://www.nutrition.gov/>. Get *MyPlate* nutrition information for babies and toddlers via the free Amazon Alexa app. To learn more, visit www.myplate.gov/myplateassistant.

YOUNG AT HEART CLUB

Thur., May 21 at 10:30 a.m. Address: the Beltsville Community Center, 3900 Sellman Rd., Beltsville. The Beltsville Young at Heart Club meets on the third Thursday of each month (weather permitting) and is for residents who are 55 years of age and older. Contact Lois at 301.498.9736 for more information.

BELTSVILLE LIBRARY EVENTS

Closed Sun., May 24 and Mon., May 25 for Memorial Day. Address: 4319 Sellman Rd., Beltsville, next door to the police station. The main phone number is 301.937.0294.

TTY: 301.808.2061. *Ask a Librarian* telephone reference is available when the library is open; call 240.455.5451. Regular hours of operation are Mon., Thur., and Fri. from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tue. and Wed. from 12 noon to 8 p.m.; Sat. from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sun. 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.; closed on most major holidays. See www.pgcmlls.info/location/Beltsville for online services and information about other county library branches and programs.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

TAIL WAGGIN' TUTORS

Two dates: Sat., May 9 and Fri., May 15 from 3 p.m. each day. Boost your

child's confidence by reading to friendly, trained therapy dogs! Whether they bring a favorite book or choose one from the library, each child gets 10 – 15 minutes of one-on-one reading time with a furry friend.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

READY 2 READ STORYTIME

Mondays at 10:30 a.m. Ages 2 – 3.

LEGOS: BRICKS AND BEYOND

Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. Freestyle building. Legos will be provided, and kids can let their imaginations run wild!

SPANISH–ENGLISH READY 2 READ STORYTIME

Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Ages 3 – 5.

KIDS CREATE: NATURE MANDALAS

Tue., May 5 at 4 p.m. Celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month by making art and crafts while learning new skills. With easy-to-follow steps, kids will create their own mandalas to take home using natural items such as sticks and leaves!

READY 2 READ ART: MAY FLOWERS

Thur., May 7 at 4:30 p.m. Dive into the colorful world of art with an interactive story that sparks imagination! After the tale, unleash creativity by crafting a themed masterpiece. It's a delightful way for little ones to appreciate art while having a blast! We will focus on stories about springtime flowers in May! Ages 3 – 5.

KIDS CREATE: KOINOBORI, JAPANESE CARP STREAMER

Tue., May 12 at 4 p.m. Have fun crafting and creating colorful carp streamers, traditionally flown in Japan to celebrate Children's Day. With easy-to-follow steps, kids will create their own unique projects to take home.

FILIPINO CULTURE CELEBRATION

Sat., May 16 at 1 p.m. Step into the vibrant world of Filipino culture! Celebrate the colorful traditions of the Flores de Mayo festival with a fun craft activity for kids and experience the lively rhythms of Filipino folk dances, from the graceful Cariñosa to the energetic Tinikling.

STEM FUN: SALT DOUGH FOSSILS

Thur., May 21 at 4 p.m. Dive into the world of science, technology, engineering, and math with fun, hands-on experiments and activities! Learn about how fossils are formed in nature and try making your own with salt dough!

PROGRAM FOR TEENS

TEEN ACTION GROUP (TAG)

Mon., May 11 at 4 p.m. Do you need to earn community service hours? Come make a difference in your community, gain friends from around the area, and make your voice heard in your public library! Ages 13 and up.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

MOVIE: JOY LUCK CLUB

Sat., May 2 at 1 p.m. Enjoy a free showing of *Joy Luck Club*. Four Chinese women along with their mothers

GROCERY STORE

continued from page 14

ing minerals, its naturally big flavor relies on simple ingredients.

Hydration: Jumex Hydrolit +Advance

This high-performance hydration drink is designed to fuel your body and mind, delivering five essential ions for optimal electrolyte balance, natural caffeine for sustained energy, and choline to boost focus and mental clarity. Whether you're training, recovering, or on the go, Hydrolit +Advance goes beyond the basics to keep you performing at your peak.

Kitchen Essentials: Reynolds Kitchens

Parchment Cooking Bags

Parchment Cooking Bags offer an innovative way to prepare flavorful meals in just three steps. Place the bag on a sheet pan and fill with your ingredients, fold it closed, and bake. The parchment bags lock in moisture and flavor, making it easy to create delicious, family-sized meals with minimal cleanup. Perfect for busy weeknights, they bring ease, taste and satisfaction to your kitchen.

Meal Ingredient: Knorr Flavor Bases

Knorr Premium Flavor Base is your secret to rich, authentic taste in every dish. Crafted by professional chefs with real, quality ingredients, each jar makes up to 52 cups of flavorful stock perfect for soups, marinades and roasted vegetables.

Plant Based: Organic Valley Oat Beverage

This new plant-based beverage blends ethically sourced, sustainably grown organic oats, water, and salt with organic MCT oil-rich texture and frothiness. Free from gums and seed oils, it's also non-dairy and lactose-free—perfect for lattes, smoothies, baking and more!

Protein Snack: Tyson Chicken Bites Cups

Delivering 35 grams of protein per serving, these chicken bites can be enjoyed as an appetizer or snack with your favorite dips.

Rice: Ben's Original Single-Serve Rice Cups

These convenient single-serving rice cups offer a quick, easy way to enjoy perfect rice in the perfect size for on-the-go meals, a quick snack or a convenient side for busy days and contain no artificial flavors or colors from artificial sources.

Spreadable Cheese: Rondelé by Président

Blending milk, cream, garlic and savory herbs into a whipped, creamy spread, this cheese delivers rich, comforting flavor to elevate everyday snacking, simple meals and casual entertaining. Made with no stabilizers, it offers quick convenience and versatility for busy lifestyles.

Additional winners include:

- Cheese: Organic Valley Original American Cheese Block
- Frozen Dessert: Kinder Frozen Dessert
- Frozen Entree: Butterball Cook from Frozen Premium Whole Turkey
- Health & Wellness: ALDI-Exclusive Elevation Ultra Filtered Milkshakes
- Wine: Elliot Cooper Chardonnay
- Zero Sugar Beverage: Clearly Canadian Zero Sugar

For more information and the complete list of this year's winners, visit productoftheyearusa.com.

By relying on the recommendations of thousands of consumers, you can load your grocery cart with the self-assurance of a savvy shopper.

Club News

Beltsville Young at Heart

By Lois Hamilton

Have you ever wished for a place to go once a month where you can spend time with mature and interesting people your own age? Well, that place is the Beltsville Young at Heart group.

We meet on the third Thursday of each month at the Beltsville Community Center, located at 3900 Sellman Road. The only requirement is that you be 55 years of age or older. You do NOT have to live in Beltsville to join us—we have members from Bow-

ie, Greenbelt, College Park, and several other areas in Maryland.

Doors open at 9:00 a.m., the business meeting starts at 10:30, and entertainment or guest speakers begin at 11:00. We usually finish by 12:30 p.m.

We provide light refreshments, a chance to win a 50/50 raffle, and opportunities to sign up for trips.

PLUS—you'll meet men and women who are friendly and enjoyable to get to know.

For more information, call our president, Lois, at 301-498-9736.

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Church News



Join the First Baptist Church of Beltsville for VBS this summer!

VBS at First Baptist Church of Beltsville

Get ready for VBS! Join our team as we discover God's plans for us at Vacation Bible School at First Baptist Church of Beltsville, taking place June 22–26, Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. All VBS events are free, and children ages 4 through 6th grade are welcome. Pre-register online at <http://www.fbcbeltsville.org/vbs.cfm> or call the church office at 301-937-7771 for more information. If your child has attended in the past and is now beyond 6th grade, they are welcome to serve as a helper—please contact the church office if they are interested in volunteering.

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IT'S
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Mayo



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Fantastic floor plan on this immaculate 3 BDR, 2 BA home, spacious laundry with main level exercise room. Minutes to Greenbelt Metro, University of Maryland, MARC train, I-95, 495, rte 29, B-W Parkway, ICC and great shopping areas. Updated kitchen and baths, level entrance back yard with large storage garage. A must see!!!

\$493,000

MARKET IS STILL GOOD, WE HAD A CHOICE OF 12 OFFERS!!!



Check us out on Facebook! The Beltsville News

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IS GOOD
BUSINESS”



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Beltsville News CHURCH DIRECTORY



ALL ARE WELCOME HERE!
Emmanuel United Methodist Church
 Sunday Morning Worship 10 AM
 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705

Join us for meaningful worship, inspiring music, and a warm, welcoming community.

Can't attend in person? Watch our live broadcast at www.eumcbeltsville.com

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them"

Upcoming Events

May 23: 8am-11am Free Food Distribution - all are welcome
 May 25: Memorial Day Church Office Closed
 June 5-14: UpStage Artists Presents *American Son*
 June 13: 9am-11am Community Yard Sale

Rev. Dr. Andrea Middleton King, Pastor
 (301)937-7114 † office@eumcbeltsville.com
www.eumcbeltsville.com
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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/EUMCBeltsville>
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Holy Apostles Orthodox Church
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A Mission Parish of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia
 Located in Twin Chimneys Office Park
 10760 Baltimore Ave, Beltsville, MD

Evening Vigil: Sat. 5:00 PM
 Hours & Divine Liturgy: Sun. 9:40 AM

All Services in English


Fr. George Johnson, Rector
 301-572-5738
www.holyapostlesorthodoxchurch.org

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church
 10774 Rhode Island Avenue
 301-937-7646



Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.
 Rev. Jongkil Na
www.APLChurch.org

Come and Join Us
 Located in the Beltsville Professional Center



St. Joseph Catholic Church
www.stjosephbeltsville.org

Pastor: Rev. Shaun T. Foggo
 Deacon: Rev. Mr. Armando Jimenez

Adult, Youth and Children Faith Formation
reled@stjosephbeltsville.org

Director: Mrs. Helene H. Stever
 St. Joseph's Regional Catholic School
www.stjosrcs.org
 Principal: Mrs. Erin Meunier

11007 Montgomery Road
 Beltsville, MD 20705
 301-937-7183

Masses: Sat Vigil 5:00pm, Sun's 8:30am*, 10:30am, and 12:15pm (Spanish)
 Monday-Friday 8:00am; Wed 9:30am; and 1st Sat's 8:00am

*The Mass on Sunday 8:30am is also live streamed, connect with us on Flocknote for the link. ** The Mass on Wednesday is only when School is open.

St. John's Episcopal/Anglican Church

11040 Baltimore Avenue Beltsville, MD 20704
 301-937-4292 • www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org
 The Reverend Joseph M. Constant, Rector

Join us for In Person Worship every Sunday at 10 AM
 Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM

To view services online:
 Go to <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsZionParish/Live/>

Other services online via Zoom: Wednesday Noonday;
 Thursday Bible Study and Compline 7 PM via Zoom

Contact the Church office if you are interested in any of these resources

Our Mission: To Share God's love with everyone to bring hope and change lives.



IF YOU NEED HELP WE ARE HERE!
 Si necesitas ayuda, estamos aqui!
 301-937-8119
www.baccmd.org



Struggling with job loss, to pay rent, to get food, or need emergency help? The Beltsville Adventist Community Center (BACC) exists to help those in the Beltsville Community and beyond take the next step toward financial independence.

FIND US at 4220 Ammendale Road, Beltsville MD 20705, located in the house behind the Beltsville SDA Church

<p>BACC Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job Counseling Assistance • Rental & Utility Assistance (on a case by case basis) • Food Supplement • Professional Counseling 	<p>On Site Agent of Dept of Social Services (DSS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAIL: Apply for services on-line • Food Supplement (FS) • Medical Assistance for Families & Children (FAC) • Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP) • Recertify—(Redetermination) -Dropoff documents • Other DSS Emergency Assistance
--	--

Food and financial assistance HOURS:
 Tues and Wed 9 am to 2 pm.
Office calling HOURS:
 Mon through Thurs
 9 am to 4:30 pm

We are celebrating our tenth year of operation

GARDEN CLUB

continued from page 1

ing public announcements to raise awareness about the opportunity. "We know there are people in this community who care about gardening, sustainability, and staying connected," the President said. "We just need to find them."

Call to Action:

Residents interested in helping preserve this longstanding community organization are encouraged to step forward. Whether you have a background in gardening or simply a desire to support local initiatives, your involvement can make a meaningful difference.

To learn more or to volunteer for a leadership position, please reach out as soon as possible to Oscar Gregory at ogregory55@gmail.com and Melissa Mackey at melissahmackey@gmail.com ahead of the July 10 deadline.

KITTEN SEASON

continued from page 4

wonderful pets. Kittens raised in a home from an early age are inevitably fearless, happy, loving little creatures who will adapt beautifully to their new forever homes when the time comes. We generally adopt out kittens in pairs, not as solos, because young kittens are much happier if they have a playmate. And it is definitely true that "two kittens are easier than one"! If you are interested in adopting kittens from BCC, or in serving as a short-term foster home, please reach out to us via email at hello@beltsvillecats.net. They don't get any cuter than these.

CALENDAR

continued from page 16

delve into their past and try to find answers. Slowly, this search helps them to understand the complex relationship they share with each other. Rated R; 2 hrs., 19 min. in length.

NEEDLEWORK SOCIAL

Mon., May 11 at 4 p.m. Are you interested in getting to know more people in your community with similar interests? Bring in any needlecraft you are working on while getting to know those around you.

MOVIE: NEXT GOAL WINS

Sat., May 16 at 4:30 p.m. Celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month with us by viewing a showing of **Next Goal Wins**. It is the story of the infamously terrible American Samoa soccer team that is known for a brutal 2001 FIFA match they lost 31-0. Rated PG-13; 1 hr., 44 min. in length.



Check us out on Facebook! The Beltsville News

Are you looking for something unique to do while in the Caribbean? St. Kitts and Nevis offer something that very few destinations can provide. Swim from one island to the other—no passport needed, no security check—just a fit version of yourself, a good vibe, and the determination to add this activity to your bucket list.

For the last 25 years, the annual swim event from the Caribbean island of Nevis to St. Kitts has grown. It is now very popular, and people travel from all over the world to take on this challenge. What started as a small event 25 years ago has grown into something big—and it is still growing. This year, almost 500 people from around the world converged on the small island (population 10,000) to take part in this fun event.

I encourage you to read up on this twin-island federation, which is easily accessible on American Airlines, Delta, United, and British Airways, among many others. The closest point between the two islands is a two-mile channel. Visit the website www.nevistostkittscrosschannelsswim.com to see photos and read more about it. It is safe, and outside of the event, you can tour both islands or play golf on the only course that offers views of both the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea.

Let me share another site with you, and then the story will appear

below: www.lagostotheworld.africa.

A friend of mine—a former childhood neighbor and big brother, Erik Uzoma Nwagwu—is about to embark on a drive around the world in a modified BMW. He lost his mother and only sister to cancer. His father is a retired university professor and global authority on cell molecular biology, Professor Mark Nwagwu. Let me share Erik's story with you:

"Hope Has a Plan. There is a man sitting at a roadside fuel stop between Cotonou (Republic of Benin) and Lomé (Togo) right now. He is probably in his fifties. He has never had a prostate cancer screening. He has never received a health awareness message of any kind. He doesn't know his PSA levels. He doesn't know his risk. He doesn't know that African men are statistically among the most vulnerable to prostate cancer on the planet.

He is not hard to find. He is simply never visited. Most health campaigns designed for West Africa are designed for cities—for clinics—for people who already know to go looking. The man at the fuel stop between Cotonou and Lomé—and the thousands like him along the corridor from Nigeria through the Benin Republic, Togo, and into Ghana—exist completely outside the reach of formal health infrastructure.

In May 2026, I am driving

through his community. Lagos to the World is a solo overland circumnavigation of the globe, departing Nigeria in May 2026. But before it becomes a global story, it is a West African one, hitting all the countries en route to Senegal. At every significant stop along the corridor—border towns, fuel stops, roadside communities—we will conduct free prostate cancer screenings and men's health activations for the men these campaigns never reach.

Not because there is a clinic nearby, but because we are driving through. This is the gap. This is what we are filling. And this is why I am asking Nigerian and West African corporates to look at this not as a sponsorship, but as a program that moves.

My mother died of cancer. My sister died of cancer. I know what it means to lose someone to a disease that early detection could have caught and treated. The man at the fuel stop between Cotonou and Lomé deserves to know too."

A BMW enthusiast, Erik will be using a 2008 BMW E60 535i, which he has modified himself for the journey. His journey will be flagged off in May from the home of the former president of Nigeria, Olusegun Obasanjo, in Abeokuta.

For more details, he can be reached at erik@lagostotheworld.africa.

That's the Jive!

CEREMONY

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G. Sapphire Harris, Breyanna Harrison, Michael Hillstrom, Davian Johnson, Chris Jones, Christopher Kelly, Alec Lynde, Nigel Maynard, Bryan McCormick, Lorenzo McDonald, Ashley McDougald, Jeanine Michael, Tracie Mitchell, Patricia Morrison, Cynthia Mowery, Mishkka Murphy, Stephanie Orstad, Dawn Page, Melvin Perry, Aaron Person, Valarie Prue, Feyi Quadri, Pauline Reid, Yuri Rodriguez, Rondell Ross, Kerritt Sain-tal, Tameka Sammy, DeMeana Smith, Rachele Spencer, Brenice

Sterling, Kristine Swann, Lenessa Terry, Eric Valentine Jr., Dianne Wallace, Richard Wallace, Ella Williams, Darcelle Wilson, Jennifer Hawkins and Gwen McCall-Winston.

During the graduation ceremony, participants delivered capstone project presentations that incorporated independent research findings as well as lessons and topics from the curriculum. Through weekly classes, participants explored the History, Present, and Future of Prince George's County, Planning 101, the Development Review Process, Building

Healthy, Sustainable and Resilient Communities, Multimodal Transportation and Street Safety, and PGAtlas.com – a free public web application and online mapping tool.

For more information on the Neighborhood Planning Academy, visit: <https://academy.pgplanning.com>. Prince George's County residents and stakeholders may join the mailing list to receive announcements on applications for the Fall 2026 cohort and upcoming courses.

Classifieds • Call 301-257-3408

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VOLUNTEERING

CALLING ALL CAT LOVERS!

Do you enjoy cats and can spare one hour a week? Beltsville Community Cats would love for you to join our awesome Colony Support Team to help feed kitties and experience their gratitude firsthand! Contact 240-444-8353 or email hello@beltsvillecats.net 01/27

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HALL RENTALS

(CATERING)

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College Park American Legion—Post 217

9218 Baltimore Blvd. (301) 441-2783

College Park, MD 20740



Contact Gary Kingery



**Check us out on Facebook!
The Beltsville News**

Boospherous Boonipherous Bojangles Barnaby III, a.k.a. BOO By Joseph West



KEY RACES IN BELTSVILLE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY



Drop Box Locations: Beltsville Community Center, Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center and Riderwood Wellness Center

Vote Early : June 11 - 18, 2026
7:00am - 8:00pm



AUTHORIZED BY FRIENDS OF MICHELLE GARCÍA: MARITZA GARCÍA, TREASURER

Michelle García

DEMOCRAT FOR **COUNTY COUNCIL**

Michelle García worked for the families of Beltsville for many years, first as Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk's chief of staff, then as Community Liaison for the whole 21st District Democratic Team, and in recent years as County Councilman Tom Dernoga's chief of staff. A first-generation college graduate, single mother, and daughter of an immigrant, she's a progressive Democrat **who refuses to accept corporate money for her campaign.**



Jessy Mejia Terry

DEMOCRAT FOR **CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

A 26-year resident of the 21st District, Jessy Mejia Terry worked in Democratic politics and for progressive causes in our community and nationally. She is running for the Democratic Central Committee to ensure our Party **prioritizes affordability and community building** — and does everything it can to win the 2026 and 2028 elections.

Why we're supporting *them.*

They know Beltsville — and they have worked with us to **stand up to Trump's attacks** on our community and our democracy. We need them now more than ever.



BY AUTHORITY, TEAM 21 SLATE

Rosapepe

Joseline Peña-Melnyk
Ben Barnes
Mary Lehman

If you want to help us, e-mail us at contact@michellejgarcia.com, call us at (301) 642-0410, or visit our websites, 21stdistrictdelegation.com or michellejgarcia.com or scan the QR code.

